

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 15 being independent and having been amended herein.

As noted previously, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0007027 (Saruta) reads data from storage elements of ink cartridges and determines whether or not ink cartridges are suitable for the printer. If so, a printing operation is allowed, whereas, if not, the printing operation is not allowed and information representing the prohibition of printing is displayed. In the Advisory Action dated December 18, 2006, it was noted that because Saruta prevents a printing operation it prevents supply of a particular signal to an information processing apparatus. Without conceding this point, independent Claims 1 and 15 now recite that communication with the information processing apparatus is prevented when the result of discrimination is negative. Such a feature is not believed to be disclosed or suggested by Saruta or any of the citations of record, whether taken individually or in combination.

Early and favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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